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Romania

HRI Food Service Sector

Update Romania's Food Labeling Requirements 2002

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Report Highlights:

This report provides a review of Romania's labeling requirements for food products of all types.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Sofia [BU1], RO

Romania's Food Labeling Requirements: A Review

In an effort to ensure that importers and exporters are fully aware of Romanian labeling requirements, AgBucharest provides below a review of the relevant Romanian regulations. It is especially important for importers and exporters to be fully aware of these regulations. In the last several months, Romanian veterinary and consumer protection authorities have been stringent in their interpretation of regulations, this has led several shipment of U.S. food products to be returned to the United States or shipped to other destinations.

Bilingual labels (English/Romanian) are required on all products exported to Romania.

The labels must contain the following information:

- name of the product
- name of the producer, establishment number and country origin- name and address of the exporter
- name and address of the importer/distributor
- production date/freezing date
- shelf life indicated by "Best before..." when the day, the month and the year are indicated or "Best before the end...." when only the month and year are indicated. In the case of food products with shelf life of less than 3 months, the indication of day and month is sufficient; products with shelf life greater than 3 months but shorter than 18 months need only an indication of month and year of expiry; for products with shelf life greater than 18 months, the indication of year is sufficient.
- storage requirements (temperature, humidity, etc.)
- place of origin or provenance if its absence would mislead consumers
- alcoholic concentration for beverages containing more than 1.2 percent alcohol
- weight: this may be expressed in metric units (liters, centiliters, gram, kilogram)
- usage instructions, in case the absence might result in improper usage
- list of ingredients (for processed products only). These ingredients must correspond to the ones written in the technical description of the product. The ingredients must be presented in descending order of the weight. The vitamins and minerals must also be mentioned in the list of ingredients.
- lot number of production, which has to correspond with the number written in the export documents.

This information may be written directly on the packages or on "stick-on" labels. Romanian authorities will accept the information written only on separate documents that accompany the products in two situations:

1. The prepackaged products will change their form before they reach the final consumer and they will not be sold for HRI consumption.
2. The products are destined to HRI consumption, but only after processing.

In the case of prepackaged frozen products, the labels will mention that “re-freezing after defrosting is prohibited”.

The Romanian authorities will not accept any inconsistency between the number of establishment (producer) or the shelf life written in the export documents and the ones written on the labels.

All U.S. exporters are advised to ask the importer about special requirements regarding labeling of goods they intend to export.

Romanian authorities do not accept the transfer of the labels from one establishment to another even if such establishments belong to the same producer and are officially inspected by the FSIS authorities.

All the information written on the certificates and the labels must be comprehensible and clear, with no traces of change.

All animal product shipments must be accompanied by the export certificate, health certificate and quality certificate/conformity declaration.